

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /018 R

DRAFTED BY COM/BIC/CAGNE/GTBECK COM/OIM/SAD/H SOCKS

APPROVED BY EB/OCA/REP/JBRABENS

COM/BIC/CAGNE/JAHARARY

COM/BIC/CAGNE/PBHALE

COM/OIM/SAD/JMURRIN

STATE/NEA/RA/HMONTGOMERY

STATE/NEA/ARP/SBUCK

----- 013018

R 032349Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS STATE 024661

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, XF

SUBJECT: RAILWAY EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY MISSION

REF: STATE 09760; AMMAN 7758; JIDDA 0395; BEIRUT 0915;

CAIRO 651; DHAHRAN 0074; SOCKS TELECON WITH WRIGHT,

DAMASCUS 1/23/75

BEIRUT FOR RTDO

1. PROPOSED SAUDI AND SYRIA SEGMENT RAILWAY MISSION
ITINERARY OUTLINED STATE 009760 ALTERED AS FOLLOWS RESULT
DECISION TO LIMIT JIDDA VISIT TO BRIEF NON-OFFICIAL
STOPOVER.

DHAHRAN

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FEBRUARY 28 (FRIDAY) ARRIVE 2150 HOURS

MARCH 2 (SUNDAY) LEAVE DHAHRAN 1600 HOURS VIA SV 935
--- (OR BY RAIL)

RIYADH

MARCH 2 (SUNDAY) ARRIVE 1650 HOURS
MARCH 5 (WEDNESDAY) LEAVE 1930 HOURS VIA SV 895

JIDDA

MARCH 5 (WEDNESDAY) ARRIVE 2050 HOURS
MARCH 6 (THURSDAY) LEAVE JIDDA AT 2000 HOURS VIA RB 382

DAMASCUS

MARCH 6 (THURSDAY) ARRIVE 2145 HOURS
MARCH 10 (MONDAY) MISSION TERMINATES

2. COMMERCE APPRECIATES JIDDA COMMENTS 0396 AND AGREES
THAT IMMEDIATE PROSPECTS RAILWAY EQUIPMENT SALES
SPECULATIVE. EMBASSY'S RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN CONVEYED
TO MISSION MEMBERS. HOWEVER, SIMILARLY CHARACTERIZED

RAILWAY MISSION TO INDIA RESULTED ULTIMATELY IN LARGE
SALES. MISSION MEMBERS, SOME WITH MUCH NEAR EASTERN
EXPERIENCE, DESIRE TO OBTAIN FIRSTHAND OVERVIEW OF SAUDI
LONGER RANGE RAIL DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS IN LIGHT OF
MASSIVE NEW FINANCIAL RESOURCES. THEREFORE, EMBASSY
REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE
BRIEFING ON SAUDI ECONOMY AND PROBABLE FUTURE TRENDS TO
MISSION DURING RIYADH STOP.

3. COMMERCE ATTEMPTED ACCOMMODATE EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION
ELIMINATE JIDDA STOP ALTOGETHER BUT FINDS THAT BRIEF
STOPOVER NECESSARY AS BEST CONNECTION TO DAMASCUS.
OTHER ALTERNATIVES CUT HEAVILY INTO RIYADH PROGRAM.
MISSION MEMBERS WILL BE ENCOURAGED RELAX JIDDA AFTER HEAVY
EGYPTIAN AND SAUDI PROGRAMS AND NO EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT
FORESEEN. ONLY ACTIVITY CONTEMPLATED VISIT JIDDA PORT
WHICH IMPORTANT FOR UNDERSTANDING OVERALL SAUDI TRANS-
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PORTATION FUTURE. THIS COULD PROBABLY BE ARRANGED BY
ADVANCE OFFICER THROUGH JIDDA CHAMBER COMMERCE. HOPE
EMBASSY CAN OBTAIN REQUIRED MARCH 5 HOTEL RESERVATIONS.
PLEASE ADVISE. KISSINGER

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